

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 24, 2006. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1-14 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 1-7 and 10-11 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. In addition, new claims 12-14 are hereby submitted for consideration.

All amendments to the application are fully supported therein. Particularly, support for amendments of claims 1-7 and 10-11 may be found on page 20, line 1 through page 22, line 8 of the specification and Fig. 8. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formal Rejections

35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph Rejections

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Claims 1-7 and 10-11 are being amended as set forth above to meet the requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Claim 8 and 9 depend from claims 7 and 4, respectively, and therefore, meet the requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph Rejections

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-7 and 10-11 are being amended as set forth above to meet the requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 8 and 9 depend from claims 7 and 4, respectively, and therefore, meet the requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

The First 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Robert, Jr. et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,549,918). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

According to the M.P.E.P. §2131, a claim is anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a), (b), and (e) only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.

Claim 1

Claim 1 as amended recites a file sharing method in a storage system, the storage system having a controller and a plurality of disk drives for sharing a file stored in the storage system, and being connected to a first host computer and a second host computer, the first host computer using a first operating system for managing the file using a first format and first file management information, the second host computer using a second operating system for managing the file using a second format different from said first format and second file management information, and the storage system storing the first file management information when the file is stored in the storage system, the first file management information including information of a location of a disk area where the file is allocated by the first operating system, the second file management information including information of the location capable of being managed by the second operating system, said method comprises the steps of: receiving a host ID of said second host computer; determining that the second host computer manages said file; converting said first file management information into said second file management information; and reading data corresponding to said file on the basis of said second information from said disk drives by the second host computer.

The method recited in claim 1 is directed to a file sharing method which enables the second host computer to access the file stored on the storage disk drive according to the first management information. A first host computer uses a first file system used in a first OS. A second host computer uses a second file system used in a second OS. Generally, a file system varies according an OS used in a computer. Because the first OS and the second OS are different, the first file system and the second file system are different. Each of the first file system and the second file system manages a file based on its own file management information, namely, a first file management information and a second file management

information. The first file management information and the second file management information include information of a location of a disk area where the file is allocated to be stored according to the first file system and the second file system, respectively. Therefore, a file stored in a storage system according to the first file system cannot be read by the second host computer which uses the second file system without converting the first file management information to the second file management file information.

In contrast, Robert merely shows in Fig. 2 that a filter driver interfaces with a native file system 234 which stores data in a multi stream format on secondary storage 236 which comprises virtual or physical disks or other type of persistent storage and the native file system 234 is provided by Microsoft® WindowsNT® 5.0 and supports multiple formats for document files. Robert does not show or suggest either explicitly or implicitly the storage system storing the first file management information when the file is stored in the storage system, the first file management information including information of a location of a disk area where the file is allocated by the first operating system, the second file management information including information of the location capable of being managed by the second operating system, said method comprises the steps of: receiving a host ID of said second host computer; determining that the second host computer manages said file; converting said first file management information into said second file management information; and reading data corresponding to said file on the basis of said second information from said disk drives by the second host computer, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Robert does not show every element recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Robert.

Claims 4, 10

Claims 4 and 10 have the substantially same features as those of claim 1, at least with respect to the storage system storing the first file management information when the file is stored in the storage system, the first file management information including information of a location of a disk area where the file is allocated by the first operating system, the second file management information including information of the location capable of being managed by the second operating system, said method comprises the steps of: receiving a host ID of said second host computer; determining that the second host computer manages said file; converting said first file management information into said second file management information; and reading data corresponding to said file on the basis of said second information from said disk drives by the second host computer. As such, the arguments set

forth above are equally applicable here. Claim 1 being allowable, claims 4 and 10 must also be allowable.

Claims 2-3, 5-9, 11

As to dependent claims 2-3, 5-9, and 11, the arguments set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 4 and 10 are equally applicable here. The corresponding base claim being allowable, claims 2-3, 5-9, and 11 must also be allowable.

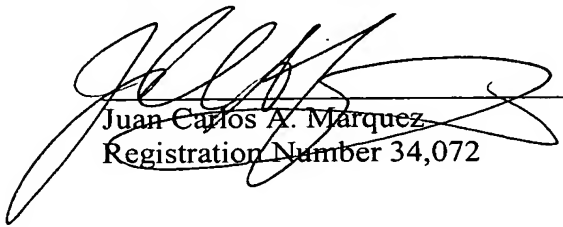
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344



Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200
February 19, 2007
SPF/JCM/YOM